

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00794 021113Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 AID-20 INT-08 COME-00 NIC-01

RSR-01 /140 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6665

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD'S 351

1. IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR'S VISIT TO BULGARIA JUNE 25-27 APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WITH GOB NO DOUBT SEEKING IRAQI PETROLEUM. MEDIA COVERAGE OF BAKR'S MEETINGS WITH ZHIVKOV AND OTHER LEADERS GIVES NO HINT OF SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES AND WAS NO GREATER OR LESSER THAN USUAL STATE VISIT.

2. COMMUNIQUE (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT) NOTABLE FOR STRONG GOB EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE AGAINST ISRAEL "AND ITS SUPPORTERS OF ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM, AND REACTION." INCLUDED WAS GOB EXPRESSION OF CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO CAUSE OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT DESCRIBED AS "INDIVISABLE PART OF ARAB
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00794 021113Z

AND WORLD LIBERATION STRUGGLE." COMMUNIQUE IS STRONG-

EST GOB STATEMENT MANY MONTHS FOR ARAB CAUSE AND DOES
NOT CONTAIN USUAL STATEMENT OF NEED TO IMPLEMENT
NOVEMBER 1967 UNGA RESOLUTION.

3. IF BULGARS HOPED TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC REWARDS IN
EXCHANGE FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT OF EXTREME IRAQI
POSITION, COMMUNIQUE LEAVES IT VERY MUCH IN DOUBT IF
THEY SUCCEEDED. WHILE BOTH SIDES AGREED TO EXPAND
ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, THIS IS
STATED IN MOST GENERAL TERMS. SOLE INDUSTRY CITED
IS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
FAILURE TO MENTION EXISTING COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM
INDUSTRY MUCH LESS EXPANSION INDICATES DIFFICULTIES
CITED REFTTEL MAY CONTINUE TO EXIST.

4. TSOLOV VISIT JUNE 15-19 LOOKED TO US VERY MUCH
LIKE HASTILY ARRANGED EFFORT TO PREPARE MAJOR ECONOMIC
AGREEMENTS TO BE CONCLUDED DURING BAKR'S VISIT. IF
SUCH WAS THE CASE, THEN IT MUST BE CONSIDERED FAILURE
IN LIGHT OF VERY GENERAL COMMUNIQUE.
HOUSTON

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30 JUN 2005

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